

**Listing of Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An ink jet ink composition comprising water, a humectant, and a water-soluble hyperbranched polymeric dye comprising a hyperbranched polymer having a dye chromophore and a hydrophilic group incorporated into the polymer base chain~~backbone~~.

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10. (currently amended) The composition of Claim 1 wherein said hyperbranched polymer having a dye chromophore and a hydrophilic group incorporated into the base chain~~backbone~~ thereof is a polyamide, polyester, polyether, vinylic polymer, polyimine, polyesteramide or polyurethane.

11. (currently amended) The composition of Claim 1 wherein said hyperbranched polymer having a dye chromophore and a hydrophilic group incorporated into the polymer base chain~~backbone~~ is prepared by a chain polymerization of a monomer of the formula  $M^1-R^7-M^2_m$  wherein  $R^7$  is a linear or branched alkyl, carbonyl, or aromatic moiety containing a dye chromophore;  $M^1$  and  $M^2$  are reactive groups that react independently of each other in which  $M^1$  is a polymerization group and  $M^2$  is a precursor of a moiety  $M^{2*}$  which initiates the polymerization of  $M^1$  as a result of being activated; and m is an integer of at least 1.

12. (currently amended) The composition of Claim 1 wherein said hyperbranched polymer having a dye chromophore and a hydrophilic group incorporated into the polymer base chain~~backbone~~ is prepared by a condensation or addition polymerization of a monomer of the formula  $M^3-R^7-M^4_p$  wherein  $R^7$  is a linear or branched alkyl, carbonyl, or aromatic moiety containing a dye chromophore;  $M^3$  and  $M^4$  are groups that undergo a condensation or addition reaction; and p is an integer of at least 2.

13. (currently amended) The composition of Claim 1 wherein said hyperbranched polymer having a dye chromophore and a hydrophilic group incorporated into the polymer base chain~~backbone~~ is prepared by a condensation or addition polymerization of a monomer of the formula  $R^8-M^5_q$  and  $R^9-M^6_t$  wherein  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  are each independently a linear or branched alkyl or aromatic moiety, at least one of which contains a dye chromophore  $M^5$  and  $M^6$  are groups that undergo a condensation or addition reaction;  $q$  is an integer of at least 2; and  $t$  an integer of at least 3.

14. (Original) The composition of Claim 1 wherein said dye chromophore is a mono- or poly-azo dye, basic dye, phthalocyanine dye, methine or polymethine dye, merocyanine dye, azamethine dye, quinophthalone dye, thiazine dye, oxazine dye, anthraquinone or metal-complex dye.

15. (Original) The composition of Claim 14 wherein said mono- or poly-azo dye is a pyrazoleazaindole.

16. (Original) The composition of Claim 14 wherein said metal-complex dye is a transition metal complex of an 8-heterocyclazo-5-hydroxyquinoline.

17. (Original) The composition of Claim 1 wherein said humectant is diethylene glycol, glycerol or diethylene glycol monobutylether.

18. (Original) The composition of Claim 1 wherein said hyperbranched polymeric dye comprises about 0.2 to about 20 % by weight of said ink jet ink composition.